

From: ["Washburn, Ben" </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE:GROUP \(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT\)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=FDA03CBA30C542059E0AF4208DAD96DA-WASHBURN,BEN>](mailto:Washburn.Ben@EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE:GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=FDA03CBA30C542059E0AF4208DAD96DA-WASHBURN,BEN)
To:
CC:
Date: 8/22/2014 3:11:28 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 8/22/14

OPA Daily Digest for 8/22/14

Congressional Inquiries:

None

State Government Inquiries:

Sen. Gary Romine – Email – 8/21/14: Requesting briefing for the Missouri Lead Industry Employment, Economic Development & Environmental Remediation Task Force on 9/9/14. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

Press Inquiries:

Greenwire – Tiffany Stecker – 8/1/14: Requesting interview with RA for profile piece about EPA's relationship with agriculture community. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

Inside EPA – Lee Logan – 8/8/14: Inquired about RA's speech at the Greenhouse Gas Strategy Forum on Clean Power Plan. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

Environmental Stories:

Des Moines Register - Should farmers make way for Bakken pipeline? - 8/21/14 - Construction of an 1,100-mile crude oil pipeline slicing diagonally through 17 Iowa counties would generate millions of dollars for the state's economy, but it's creating worries among Iowa farmers asked to provide easements on their land.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/2014/08/22/farmers-make-way-bakken-pipeline/14426829/>

NOTE: Paywall issues may keep you from seeing this article. Full text is included at the end of this email.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Missouri air program backtracks on proposed permit fee hike - 8/21/14 - The apparent consensus among Missouri industries to pay more in permit and emission fees has dissolved, forcing state air regulators to ask for less in order to remain solvent. http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/missouri-air-program-backtracks-on-proposed-permit-fee-hike/article_e67b90de-201b-5174-8ac2-2f4ebd1265b1.html

KMUW Wichita Public Radio - Blue-Green Algae Blooms In Kansas Lakes - 8/22/14 - The Kansas Department of Health and Environment maintains a list of Harmful Algal

Blooms throughout the state. So far this summer, ten lakes have been affected by blue-green algae. <http://kmuw.org/post/blue-green-algae-blooms-kansas-lakes>

WHO Ch. 13 Des Moines - AGRIBUSINESS: Algae Bloom Raises Nutrient Awareness - 8/22/14 - Algae blooms across the United States is raising nutrient awareness in Iowa. Ostensibly, the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy is all about algae in the Gulf of Mexico's hypoxic zone. <http://whotv.com/2014/08/22/agribusiness-algae-bloom-raises-nutrient-awareness/>

WIBW Ch. 21 Topeka, Kan. - Running Dry | Targeting Toxins And Other Emerging Issues (video) - 8/21/14 - The same toxins from algae that spark warnings at Kansas lakes and recently shut down the water supply for Toledo, Ohio are showing up in the source of water for several cities, including Topeka. <http://www.wibw.com/home/headlines/Running-Dry--Targeting-Toxins-And-Other-Emerging-Issues-272245931.html>

The News-Leader, Springfield, Mo. - CU board approves plan to charge more for solar - 8/21/14 - The Board of Public Utilities today approved City Utilities' proposed 2015 budget as well as the utility's proposal to essentially charge more to customers who want to be sourced by solar power. <http://www.news-leader.com/story/news/local/ozarks/2014/08/21/cu-board-approves-plan-charge-solar/14411447/>

Food Dive - Tyson is focus of criminal probe by EPA - 8/20/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency confirmed it is conducting a criminal investigation into Tyson Foods in connection with a fish kill in Missouri. <http://www.fooddive.com/news/tyson-is-focus-of-criminal-probe-by-epa/299845/>

Ozarks First - Correction: Tyson Foods Faces Criminal Investigation in May Fish Kill - 8/20/14 - KOLR10 contacted the EPA, which cannot comment on pending litigation, but sent this statement: "The EPA works with law enforcement partners that share our commitment to protect natural resources and the communities that rely upon them to hold violators accountable." <http://www.ozarksfirst.com/story/d/story/monett-tyson-foods-clear-creek-fish-kill-epa/89712/xbUZj2G-G0qqgRRk80TYg>

KSPR Ch. 33 Springfield, Mo. - EPA now investigating Tyson Foods - 8/20/14 - Tyson Foods released a statement saying it is now under investigation from the Environment Protection Agency for possible criminal charges from the contaminated water in Monett, MO. http://www.kspr.com/news/local/epa-now-investigating-tyson-foods/21051620_27647570

The Hill - EPA pressed for time limits on chemical trade secrets - 8/21/14 - A coalition of environmental, labor and public health groups is petitioning the Environmental Protection Agency to set time limits on information deemed "confidential" by the chemical industry. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/215714-groups-press-epa-for-time-limits-on-chemical-industry-trade-secrets>

Heartland - EPA Forced to Retreat on Radiation Limits - 8/22/14 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is raising by a factor of 350 what it considers to be the threshold for safe radiation exposure, Jon Utley reported at Reason.com. <http://news.heartland.org/newspaper-article/2014/08/22/epa-forced-retreat-radiation-limits>

Huffington Post - Does EPA's Proposal to Cut Biodiesel Portend Administration Caving to Big Coal? - 8/21/14 - Is a recent Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposal to cut biodiesel -- an environmentally friendly fuel that burns significantly cleaner than regular diesel made from oil -- a sign that the Obama administration is waving the white flag on reducing greenhouse gas emissions? http://www.huffingtonpost.com/lindsay-san-giacomo/does-epas-proposal-to-cut_b_5668720.html

Huffington Post - Criticism of EPA's Economic Analysis Sorely Misplaced - 8/21/14 - A recent report from the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) suggests that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) should improve the way it analyzes regulations. Critics have been quick to trumpet the EPA's "failure," but in reality, the EPA deserves an A (or at least an A-). http://www.huffingtonpost.com/richard-l-revesz-and-michael-a-livermore/criticism-of-epas-economi_b_5697977.html

Quad-City Times - Davenport's environment commission meets for first time - 8/21/14 - A nine-member commission appointed by Davenport Mayor Bill Gluba to advise the city on environmental issues got acquainted in its first meeting Thursday at City Hall. http://qctimes.com/news/local/government-and-politics/davenport-s-environment-commission-meets-for-first-time/article_dbfb62fb-dacb-5ade-8dfd-033b22b44544.html

The New Yorker - Seeds of doubt | An activist's controversial crusade against genetically modified crops - 8/25/14 issue - Feeding an ever-expanding population without further harming the Earth presents one of the greatest challenges of our time, perhaps of all time. Many scientists are convinced that we can hope to meet those demands only with help from the advanced tools of plant genetics. Vandana Shiva disagrees; she looks upon any seed bred in a laboratory as an abomination. <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2014/08/25/seeds-of-doubt>

Washington Post - Why our brains are wired to ignore climate change - 8/21/14 - Some of the answers are familiar. Humans respond most urgently to threats that are present, concrete and definite — a mugger, say. But climate change is gradual, hard to observe and indefinite, at least in terms of its eventual magnitude and effects on our personal lives. http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/uncertain-forecast-for-the-planet/2014/08/21/da465b9e-0eb4-11e4-b8e5-d0de80767fc2_story.html

The Guardian (U.K.) - Global warming slowdown answer lies in depths of Atlantic, study finds – 8/21/14 - Excess heat being stored hundreds of metres down in Atlantic and Southern oceans – not Pacific as previously thought. <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/aug/21/global-warming-slowdown-answer-lies-in-depths-of-atlantic-study-finds>

The Economist - Davy Jones's heat locker - 8/23/14 edition - The mystery of the pause in global warming may have been solved. The most likely explanation is that it is hiding in the oceans, which store nine times as much of the sun's heat as do the atmosphere and land combined. <http://www.economist.com/news/science-and-technology/21613161-mystery-pause-global-warming-may-have-been-solved-answer-seems>

USA Today - Investing in the American energy renaissance - 8/22/14 - Every once in a while, you see something you've never seen before. But here's something you really haven't seen before: A period of seething Middle Eastern unrest — and falling energy prices. <http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/columnist/waggoner/2014/08/22/investing-in-the-american-energy-renaissance/14400049/>

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - DuPont sues SunEdison over solar material patent - 8/22/14 - Chemical giant DuPont on Thursday sued SunEdison for patent infringement, accusing the O'Fallon, Mo.,- based solar array developer of contracting with suppliers and manufacturers that infringed on proprietary DuPont technology. http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/dupont-sues-sunedison-over-solar-material-patent/article_63d8037e-1bd1-5060-824c-c5be6447a5e1.html

Lincoln Journal-Star (Neb.) - Column: Farm & Food: A chance for understanding GMOS - 8/22/14 - That this fire still burns hot 20 years after the introduction of GM crops is testament to both the public's continuing unease about putting something known as “genetically modified organisms” in their mouths and the immense political clout of Big Ag to keep that unease contained. http://journalstar.com/business/agriculture/farm-food-a-chance-for-understanding-gmos/article_6efa1dc6-99bb-5e5d-8ca1-acb561332c35.html

Science - Ongoing drought-induced uplift in the western United States - 8/21/14 - The western United States has been experiencing severe drought since 2013. The solid earth response to the accompanying loss of surface and near-surface water mass should be a broad region of uplift. <http://www.sciencemag.org/content/early/2014/08/20/science.1260279>

Climate Central - Epic Drought in West is Literally Moving Mountains - 8/22/14 - For the first time, scientists are now able to measure how much surface and groundwater is lost during droughts by measuring how much the land rises as it dries. <http://www.climatecentral.org/news/epic-drought-in-west-is-moving-mountains-17924>

Newsweek - The Elevation of Western U.S. Is Rising Due to Drought - 8/21/14 - A new study published today (Aug. 21) in the journal Science found that the severe drought that has gripped the West since 2013 has actually caused much of the land mass in that part of the world to rise, by an average of 0.16 inches (4 millimeters).
<http://www.newsweek.com/western-us-rising-due-drought-266137>

Yale Environment 360 - Drought in Western U.S. has caused land to rise, researchers say - 8/22/14 - The western U.S. has lost so much water during the ongoing severe drought that the land has sprung up by as much as 15 millimeters (0.6 inches), according to a study in the journal Science.
http://e360.yale.edu/digest/drought_in_western_us_has_caused_land_to_rise_researchers_say/4228/

Reuters - U.S. EPA makes strides in air toxics but work remains in cities: report - 8/21/14 - The United States has made progress in reducing dangerous air pollution since 1990 but work remains to reduce risks for the country's most overburdened urban areas, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's top official said on Thursday.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/21/us-usa-epa-airtoxins-idUSKBN0GL1QJ20140821>

Environmental Leader - Urban Air Toxics Down Across US - 8/22/14 - Coal-fired power plants and other manmade sources have reduced toxic mercury emissions about 60 percent since 1990, according to the EPA's Second Integrated Urban Air Toxics Report to Congress. <http://www.environmentalleader.com/2014/08/22/urban-air-toxics-down-across-us/>

Sierra Club (release) - One Month Countdown Until Major Climate Marches - 8/22/14 - The People's Climate March scheduled for September 21, is expected to be the largest demonstration for climate action in history and will take place just two days before President Obama and world leaders gather for an emergency Climate Summit at the United Nations. <http://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2014/08/one-month-countdown-until-major-climate-marches-nyc-and-around-world>

Radio Iowa - Ranking EPA official denies "power grab" attempt with Clean Water Act changes - 8/22/14 - A top administrator with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency claims proposed changes to the Clean Water Act won't harm agriculture, but he understands that statement is a difficult one to make in farm country.
<http://www.radioiowa.com/2014/08/22/ranking-epa-official-denies-power-grab-attempt-with-clean-water-act-changes/>

Reuters - U.S. EPA sends 2014 biofuel targets to White House for review - 8/22/14 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Friday sent its final targets for 2014 biofuel use to the White House as the long-delayed rule enters its last round of review before public release. With the rule nearly nine months behind schedule, biodiesel producers have struggled with low fuel prices and market uncertainty. <http://news.yahoo.com/u-epa-sends-2014-biofuel-targets-white-house-161552626.html>

Biofuels Digest - EPA's delay on RFS hitting biodiesel producers hard - 8/22/14 - In Washington, with the EPA expected to announce RFS blending mandates for 2014 in September at the earliest, the biodiesel industry is suffering from sinking prices as buyers wait on the sidelines until the mandate is announced.
<http://www.biofuelsdigest.com/bdigest/2014/08/22/epas-delay-on-rfs-hitting-biodiesel-producers-hard/>

Domestic Fuel - Prez: Don't Undermine the RFS - 8/22/14 - Fuels America is asking President Obama to not undermine the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) especially as it relates to the development of cellulosic ethanol. <http://domesticfuel.com/2014/08/22/prez-dont-undermine-the-rfs/>

Domestic Fuel - Canola Genome Could Unlock Biodiesel Potential in Plant - 8/22/14 - Researchers have unlocked the genome for canola, and their discovery could mean a better plant for biodiesel. <http://domesticfuel.com/2014/08/22/canola-genome-could-unlock-biodiesel-potential-in-plant/>

Domestic Fuel - Iowans Want More Biodiesel and Candidates' Support for It - 8/22/14 - As one of the nation's leaders in biodiesel production, it comes as no surprise that

Iowans are supportive of the green fuel. But a new survey shows that support is practically through the roof! <http://domesticfuel.com/2014/08/22/iowans-want-more-biodiesel-and-candidates-support-for-it/>

Forbes - Opinion: The EPA's Costly 'Clean Power Plan' Power Grab - 8/22/14 - Under the EPA's proposed Clean Power Plan, the agency will accomplish a wholesale transfer of site-based power plant regulatory authority to the federal government, while cutting states out of prioritization and affordability concerns. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/realspin/2014/08/22/the-epas-costly-clean-power-plan-power-grab/>

Heartland Institute (blog) - EPA Pesticide Bans Threaten You and the Economy - 8/22/14 - most people believe that the EPA operates on the basis of science and, from the beginning, that could hardly have been less true. It has evolved over the years into a totally rogue government agency issuing thousands of regulations with the intent to control virtually every aspect of life in America. <http://blog.heartland.org/2014/08/epa-pesticide-bans-threaten-you-and-the-economy/>

Heartland Institute (blog) - Urgent Call for citizen action to rein in EPA - 8/22/14 - The EPA has outlived its usefulness. Don't delay by downloading and signing The Heartland Institute petition as a citizen concerned about the overreach of the EPA and its proposals which point to economic disaster for this nation. <http://blog.heartland.org/2014/08/urgent-call-for-citizen-action-to-rein-in-epa/>

Greenwire - EPA trumpets 'considerable gains' in curbing toxic emissions - 8/21/14 - U.S. emissions of air pollutants linked to cancer, asthma and other serious health problems have plunged over the past few decades, according to a report released today by U.S. EPA. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060004785/>

Greenwire - Groups petition EPA for time limit on trade secret claims - 8/21/14 - A coalition of labor, environmental and public health groups filed a petition with U.S. EPA today seeking to put time constraints on a legal technique used by chemical companies to keep sensitive information about products under wraps. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060004790/>

BNA - Whether a Ditch Has Perennial Flow Called Key Factor in Deciding Federal Jurisdiction - 8/21/14 - A ditch that is excavated in uplands and has less than perennial flow would not be subject to Clean Water Act jurisdiction under an Environmental Protection Agency proposal. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=51874779&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f4y3c1t2&split=0

BNA - Dispersed Systems Can Help Facilities Achieve Future Resiliency, Report Says - 8/21/14 - Dispersed or distributed systems can complement centralized water infrastructure and, in some cases, are the preferred alternative in achieving future resiliency, according to a report released Aug. 21 by the Johnson Foundation at Wingspread. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=51874795&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f4y5a9c9&split=0

BNA - Weigh Benefits of Clean Coal Incentives In Context of Other Policy Goals, CRS Says - 8/21/14 - Congress may need to weigh the benefits of providing tax incentives and loan guarantees for "clean coal" projects in the context of its broader policy goals, the Congressional Research Service said. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=51874798&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f4y5c2r7&split=0

BNA - Solar Power Plants Pose Less Risk To Birds Than Cats, Cars or Cell Towers - 8/21/14 - Solar-thermal power plants in the U.S. are less likely to kill birds than automobiles, cats or communication towers, despite reports that say the facilities pose a significant threat to avian life. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=51874781&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f4y3e5v8&split=0

BNA - NCSL Committee Endorses U.S. Efforts To Protect Pollinators From Pesticides - 8/21/14 - The Natural Resources and Infrastructure Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures voted unanimously to endorse federal efforts to protect honeybees and other pollinators.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=51874790&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f4y3q6p0&split=0

BNA - Power Plant Rule Acknowledges Reliability, Affordability Key to States, McCabe Says - 8/21/14 - The Obama administration's proposal to cut carbon pollution from power plants recognizes states' need for reliable and affordable power, Janet McCabe, the Environmental Protection Agency's air chief, said Aug. 20 at a National Conference of State Legislatures' summit in Minneapolis. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=51874774&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f4y1y2b3&split=0

BNA - Homeland Security Says It Can Sustain Progress in Chemical Security Effort - 8/21/14 - The Department of Homeland Security's chemical security program will maintain an increased pace of authorizing and approving site security plans to reduce risks of hazardous material release, theft, diversion, or sabotage at industrial facilities around the country, a top official said Aug. 21. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=51874791&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f4y3u7t2&split=0

BNA - Air Toxics Emissions Down Nationwide Since 1990, EPA Says in Report to Congress - 8/21/14 - Environmental regulations have resulted in a significant decrease of hazardous air pollutant emissions since 1990, but some areas of the country still have elevated levels of risk from formaldehyde, benzene and other air toxics. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=51874788&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f4y3q2u8&split=0

Inside EPA - EPA To Seek Advisors' Input On Future Policies To Cut Urban Air Toxics - 8/21/14 - EPA plans to submit its latest study on urban air toxics to its Clean Air Act Advisory Committee (CAAAC) for advice on how to craft future policies to further reduce toxic emissions. <http://insideepa.com/201408212479850/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-to-seek-advisors-input-on-future-policies-to-cut-urban-air-toxics/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - Groups Seek 'Sunset' For TSCA CBI Claims - 8/21/14 - Several environmental groups are petitioning EPA to impose time limits on businesses' confidentiality claims on chemical information submitted under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). <http://insideepa.com/201408212479840/EPA-Blog/News-Briefs/groups-seek-sunset-for-tsca-cbi-claims/menu-id-97.html>

Inside EPA - McConnell Vows EPA Budget Riders If GOP Takes Senate - 8/21/14 - Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) is pledging to include a range of riders in future spending bills limiting Obama administration policies, including major pending EPA regulations. <http://insideepa.com/201408212479841/EPA-Blog/News-Briefs/mcconnell-vows-epa-budget-riders-if-gop-takes-senate/menu-id-97.html>

Inside EPA - EPA To Seek Advisors' Input On Future Policies To Cut Urban Air Toxics - 8/21/14 - EPA plans to submit its latest study on urban air toxics to its Clean Air Act Advisory Committee (CAAAC) for advice on how to craft future policies to further reduce toxic emissions. <http://insideepa.com/201408212479850/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-to-seek-advisors-input-on-future-policies-to-cut-urban-air-toxics/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - Criticisms Of EPA Drilling UIC Permit Oversight May Spur Delegation Fight - 8/22/14 - Environmentalists say EPA is not sufficiently overseeing states' delegated issuance of Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) underground injection control (UIC) permits for oil and gas wastewater disposal. <http://cleanenergyreport.com/201408222479881/Clean-Energy-Report-Daily-News/News/criticisms-of-epa-drilling-uic-permit-oversight-may-spur-delegation-fight/menu-id-202.html>

Inside EPA - Industry Seeks To Reinstate RCRA Gasification Waiver, Citing Precedent - 8/22/14 - The petroleum industry is asking a key federal appellate court to revisit and reverse a June 27 ruling that vacated EPA's gasification exclusion rule. <http://insideepa.com/201408222479885/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/industry-seeks-to-reinstate-rcra-gasification-waiver-citing-precedent/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - EPA Sends Final 2014 RFS For OMB Review - 8/22/14 - EPA has sent its long-pending final 2014 renewable fuel standard (RFS) targets to the White House Office of Management & Budget (OMB) for pre-publication review, with biofuels advocates calling on the agency to reverse the proposed version of the rule that would significantly cut some of the RFS' fuel blending requirements. <http://insideepa.com/201408222479893/EPA-Blog/News-Briefs/epa-sends-final-2014-rfs-for-omb-review/menu-id-97.html>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

8/26-27/14 – Farm Progress Show, Boone, Iowa. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

***8/28/14** – The Nature Conservancy-Missouri Board of Trustees Reception, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

***8/29/14** – Interview with Greenwire, Regional Office. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

***8/30/14** – Dedication Ceremony – Kickapoo Diabetes Walking/Running Trail, Horton, Kan. Contact: Patrick Bustos, 7969

9/3/14 – Office of Water Visit to Region 7, Regional Office. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

9/10/14 - Kansas City Steel Redevelopment/Walmart Grand Opening, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

9/10/14 – U.S. Health & Human Services Senior Leadership Meeting (Clean Power Plan), Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Curtis Carey, 7506

9/14-17/14 – Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) Fall Meeting, Santa Fe, N.M. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

9/30/14 – Midwest Energy Policy Conference, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555

10/9/14 – Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Energy & Environmental Roundtable and Reception, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Dave Bryan, 7433

10/10/14 – Nebraska State Bar Association, La Vista, Neb. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

DRA:

***9/10/14** - Next Generation State Visit, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Kevin Barthol, 7XXX

***9/16/14** - Meet with Arthur Elkins, Office of Inspector General, Regional Office Contact: Renee McGhee-Lenart

***10/7/14** - Employee Appreciation Event, Regional Office contact: Monica Espinosa, 7XXX

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

None

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

9/30/14 – National EJ Coordinator’s Meeting in Washington, D.C. Contact: Tamara Freeman, 7094

ENSV

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

9/29-30/14 - Healthy Schools Outreach, Missouri School Plant Managers' Association Conference, Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks, Mo. Contact: Kathleen Fenton, 7874 and Harry Diesel, 7382

SUPR

8/25/14 – North West Missouri LEPC Meeting, St. Joseph, Mo. – Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

8/27/14 – West Central Missouri LEPC Meeting, Warrensburg, Mo. – Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

WWPD

8/18-21/14 – Purdue Pesticide Program Certification and Training Workshop, Indianapolis, Ind. Contact: Douglas Jones, 7592

8/25-26/14 – State Revolving Fund Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Summit, Ankeny, Iowa. Contact: Christopher Simmons, 7237

8/26-28/14 – Kansas Water Environment Association/Kansas Section, American Water Works Association Joint Conference, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Wayne Dillard, 7885

9/8-11/14 – National EPA Small Systems Drinking Water Technical Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio. Contact: Stan Calow, 7410

9/9/14 – Iowa Department of Natural Resources Drinking Water Program Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

9/10-11/14 – Kansas Department of Health and Environment Geology Seminar presentations, Wichita, Kan. Contacts: David Garrett, 7159, Kurt Hildebrandt, 7413

9/18-19/14 – Shell Creek Watershed Planning Meeting, Platte Center, Neb. Contact: Heather Duncan, 7640

Des Moines Register

Should farmers make way for Bakken pipeline?

By William Petroski, bpetrosk@dmreg.com

11:31 p.m. CDT August 21, 2014

Construction of an 1,100-mile crude oil pipeline slicing diagonally through 17 Iowa counties would generate millions of dollars for the state's economy, but it's creating worries among Iowa farmers asked to provide easements on their land.

Energy Transfer Partners of Dallas, Texas, has proposed building the 30-inch-diameter pipeline, which would initially carry 320,000 barrels of crude oil daily — with a capability for 420,000 barrels. The oil would be transported from North Dakota's Bakken oil fields, where production has been booming, to Patoka, Ill., about 75 miles east of St. Louis, Mo., while passing through South Dakota and Iowa.

Thousands of Iowa farmers have already been contacted by the company about the pipeline project, and some say they are either strongly in opposition or are reserving judgment until they learn more details. One of the biggest concerns is potential damage to drainage tiles, although Iowa law requires the company to repair any damage. The tiles carry excess water from fields.

Randy Sieren of rural Fremont in southeast Iowa, who raises corn and soybeans on several farms along the pipeline route, said he strongly opposes the pipeline project. He has a thick envelope from the pipeline company seeking permission for surveys, but he's not planning to sign anything.

"We have spent a heck of a lot of money pattern-tiling this ground with a strip of tile every 40 feet," Sieren said. "When they go through it, they'll rip up all those tile lines. There is no way of fixing them the right way."

Farmers recognize need for energy

Rich Larson, who farms rented land in Boone County along the pipeline route, said he doesn't want to stop the pipeline project and he recognizes that the American economy needs oil. But he also wants to make sure any damage to tile systems is fixed.

"Sure, I have concerns. You have concerns any time your income base gets disturbed for any reason," Larson said. "You could have a tile main that is trying to occupy the same space as the pipeline, and that could compromise it. It might ruin it. So that to me is the single biggest problem."

But otherwise, Larson said he generally considers pipeline companies to be good neighbors. "We happen to have four natural gas pipelines going through one of our fields, and if they have to come in for maintenance, they usually take care of their mess and pay for the damages," he said.

Craig Hill of Milo, president of the Iowa Farm Bureau, said he understands initial objections to the pipeline project because it will affect land that farmers have worked so hard to acquire. But he said he also understands that the nation needs a domestic supply of energy to replace reliance on Middle Eastern oil.

In addition, he noted that most of the Bakken crude oil is now being transported in railroad tank cars, which has made it more difficult for Midwest farmers to transport their grain via railroad.

"The Iowa Farm Bureau wants to make sure that landowners are heard, their rights are protected, and that land is preserved throughout this process," Hill said in a statement. "Landowners need reliable, credible information on which to make the decisions they will be facing as a result of this recent announcement. It's important that landowners visit with their attorney before signing any agreement."

Company promises to repair damage

Vicki Granado, an Energy Transfer Partners spokesman, said the company, which owns thousands of miles of pipelines, is fully committed to repairing any problems with drainage tiles that stem from the construction work.

"Anything that we touch, we are responsible for replacing it, fixing it, installing it," Granado said. "We will pay for it and get it done, and done right. That is all part of the plan."

The proposed pipeline will be buried so that the top of the pipe is at least 2 feet deep or 2 feet below any drain tiles, whichever is lower, according to state officials. The permanent easement will be 50 feet wide, but the temporary construction corridor will be 100 to 150 feet wide.

The pipeline's economic benefit to Iowa in the first year alone is estimated at \$61 million in tax payments, Granado said. This does not include the job creation, purchases of goods and services by the temporary workforce during construction, or the purchases the company will make from local suppliers for project materials, she said. Property taxes in the second year and beyond are estimated at \$31 million annually.

The cost of the pipeline project is estimated at \$4.8 billion to \$5 billion. Company officials say about 8,000 temporary construction workers will be employed along the entire route. They didn't have a breakdown for Iowa workers.

Land values rise to record levels

The pipeline has been proposed at a time when land prices have soared to record levels. A report by Farm Credit Services of America in July said the average value of Iowa farmland is now \$10,172 an acre, based on sales in April, May and June.

Company officials say they will conduct public meetings to discuss the pipeline project in each of the 17 Iowa counties, starting Sept. 23, and they expect to formally submit their plans soon to the Iowa Utilities Board. If the board approves, the pipeline company could use eminent domain to acquire easements if Iowa farmers balk at giving consent, state officials say. The pipeline is scheduled to begin transporting Bakken crude oil by late 2016.

Phil Verleger, a Colorado energy consultant, said outside of taxes generated by the pipeline, he doesn't see a lot of long-term economic benefits to Iowa from the project. The pipeline would have no Iowa terminals. The construction project also would require lots of welders, which would drive up costs for other Iowa companies needing those workers, he said.

Verleger also said he suspects most of the light sweet crude oil from the Bakken fields would be exported to other countries as intermediate products after the most flammable components are removed. But he contends it would be hypocritical for Iowa farmers — who rely heavily upon foreign sales of farm commodities — to oppose American oil exports.

Granado said her company's goal is to provide options to supply the Bakken crude oil to foreign and domestic markets, including the Chicago area and the East Coast. At Patoka, the oil could be switched to railroad tank cars or continue to the Gulf Coast through an existing pipeline.

Gov. Terry Branstad, an advocate of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline from Canada to the United States, is undecided whether to back the proposed Bakken pipeline, but he met July 22 with Greg Brazaitis, chief compliance officer for Energy Transfer Partners, to learn more about the project, according to a Branstad spokesman.

State Sen. Jack Hatch, a Des Moines Democrat challenging Branstad in the governor's race, said he has also been trying to find out details about the pipeline plans. But Hatch complained that all the meetings involving state officials so far have been behind closed doors.

Granado said her company is trying to be as open as possible about the pipeline project and noted that the meetings with state officials and discussions with landowners are public knowledge.

"I don't think we are trying to do anything in the dark of night," she said. "That is just not the way we do business."

PROPOSED BAKKEN PIPELINE

- LENGTH: 1,100 miles from North Dakota to Patoka, Ill.
- COST: \$4.8 billion to \$5 billion.
- CONSTRUCTION JOBS: 8,000.
- FIRST-YEAR IOWA TAXES: \$61 million.
- ANNUAL IOWA PROPERTY TAXES SECOND YEAR, BEYOND: \$31 million.
- OWNER: Energy Transfer Partners.

Source: Energy Transfer Partners.

TAXES FROM INTERSTATE PIPELINES

Iowa has thousands of miles of interstate pipelines, and they had an assessed value in 2013 of about \$1.5 billion, according to the Iowa Department of Revenue. They pay from \$50 million to \$60 million annually in local property taxes that benefit school districts, cities, counties and other government units, said Roland Simmons, a state property tax appraiser.